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and Debtor in Possession /Removing Party

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
EASTERN DIVISION**

EILEEN BYRNE, in and through her Successor-In-Interest, Maura Byrne, and MAURA BYRNE, an individual,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

P.T.C.H., INC. dba PALM TERRACE
CARE CENTER; NORTH AMERICAN
HEALTH CARE, INC.; and DOES 1
through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF STATE
COURT ACTION PURSUANT TO RULE
9027 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF
BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE**

[No Hearing Required]

1 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that, pursuant to Rule 9027 of the Federal Rules of
 2 Bankruptcy Procedure and 28 U.S.C. § § 157(a), 157(b)(1) and (2), 1334 and 1452, North
 3 American Health Care, Inc. (the “Debtor”), the defendant in the state court action titled Eileen
 4 Byrne, et al. v. P.T.C.H., Inc., et al. (the “Byrne Action”), filed in the Superior Court of the State
 5 of California for the County of Riverside (the “State Court”), bearing Case No. RIC T300175,
 6 hereby removes the entire Byrne Action and all of the claims and causes of action alleged in the
 7 Byrne Action to this Court on the following grounds:

8 **A. Background Information.**

9 1. On February 6, 2015, North American Health Care, Inc. (“NAHC” or the Debtor)
 10 and Carmichael Care, Inc. (“CCI”) collectively with North American Health Care, Inc., the
 11 “Debtors”) each filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, in the United
 12 States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California – Santa Ana Division, bearing case
 13 numbers 8:15-bk-10610-MW and 8:15-bk-10612-MW, respectively. The Debtors’ bankruptcy
 14 cases are being jointly administered. Since the commencement of their cases, the Debtors have
 15 been operating their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to Sections 1107 and 1108 of
 16 the Bankruptcy Code.

17 2. CCI is the operator of a skilled nursing facility known as Rosewood Post-Acute
 18 Rehabilitation (the “Rosewood Facility”). The Rosewood Facility is licensed by the California
 19 Department of Public Health. NAHC provides services to CCI pursuant to a Services Agreement
 20 between NAHC and CCI. Specifically, pursuant to the Services Agreement, NAHC provides
 21 non-licensed personnel to CCI as necessary for the business of the Rosewood Facility. For
 22 example, NAHC provides to the Rosewood Facility bookkeeping and accounting services, public
 23 relations and social media services, supply procurement services, record storage services, payroll
 24 services, insurance procurement services, information technology services, human resource
 25 services, and other peer review support services.

26 3. NAHC provides essential services to 36 facilities, including the Rosewood
 27 Facility. NAHC is a highly experienced provider of services to skilled nursing facilities, and its
 28

1 principal place of business is in Dana Point, California.

2 4. The Rosewood Facility provides 24 hour, 7 days a week and 365 days a year care
3 to patients who reside at the Rosewood Facility. The Rosewood Facility currently has
4 approximately 107 patients, and is staffed by approximately 184 employees. The Rosewood
5 Facility has 112 beds. NAHC charges CCI service fees in connection with the services NAHC
6 provides to the Rosewood Facility.

7 5. NAHC and CCI are owned by the same investors. Specifically, NAHC is owned
8 44% by Vermillion Investment Co. LLC, 24% by Davey Jay LLC, 28% by Oakleaf Holding,
9 LLC, 2% by Shard Holding, LLC, and 2% by Jay Kevin Laws. CCI's ownership structure is
10 identical to NAHC's ownership structure. Both entities also have the same individuals serving on
11 each of their Boards of Directors.

12 6. The Debtor's bankruptcy filings were necessitated by the barrage of alleged
13 medical malpractice and other lawsuits filed against the Debtors, including the Byrne Action,
14 claiming damages in the millions of dollars against the Debtors, and the aggressive litigation
15 tactics of the plaintiffs in these lawsuits that have diverted the Debtors' resources and focus away
16 from operating their businesses. The Debtors deny any liability with respect to these lawsuits,
17 including the Byrne Action. The Rosewood Facility has been operated according to exacting
18 standards and the highest level of patient care. Indeed, the Rosewood Facility continues to
19 provide respected, Five-Star (as rated by CMS) care for its patients.

20 7. Despite this record of achievement, certain plaintiffs' counsel have targeted the
21 Debtors and have relentlessly pursued what they perceive to be potential "deep pockets" for
22 recovery. However, had the Debtors not filed for bankruptcy protection, and had plaintiffs with
23 disputed claims continued their unending litigation attacks against the Debtors, or obtained their
24 threatened judgments, the inevitable result would have been that the Debtors would have been
25 forced to close their businesses. The Debtors, after substantial consideration of possible
26 alternatives, substantial efforts to settle disputes and litigation claims, and careful consideration of
27 the effect of the bankruptcy filings on their businesses, determined that the most prudent,

1 proactive and responsible course of action in order to protect their assets and the interests of their
2 creditors, was to file for bankruptcy protection. The Debtors intend to work to reorganize their
3 financial affairs and resolve their litigation in a cohesive, organized manner, in a single forum.

4 8. Given the impact upon the Debtors' estates, the Debtors' business operations, and
5 the Debtors' ability to reorganize their financial affairs, including the need to preserve the
6 Debtors' assets, the Debtors had no choice but to commence these bankruptcy cases, and to
7 remove the Byrne Action, a "core proceeding", to this Court, and request that this Court transfer
8 the Byrne Action to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District in California –
9 Santa Ana Division, where the Debtors' bankruptcy cases are pending. The Debtors intend to
10 immediately file a motion requesting a transfer of venue.

11 **B. Grounds for Removing the Royalty Litigation.**

12 9. The Byrne Action is a civil action and is not a proceeding before the United States
13 Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's police or
14 regulatory power.

15 10. The Byrne Litigation is a "core proceeding" under at least 28 U.S.C. §§
16 157(b)(2)(A), (B), (C) and (O), because the Byrne Action seeks, among other things, a
17 determination of claims against the Debtors' estates, the disposition of assets of the Debtors'
18 estates, and the adjustment of the debtor-creditor or equity security holder relationship.

19 11. This Court and the Bankruptcy Court have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
20 1334(b).

21 12. The removal of the Byrne Action is timely pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy
22 Procedure 9027(a)(2).

23 13. Attached hereto are copies of the pertinent documents filed in the Byrne Action.

24 14. NAHC will shortly file a motion to transfer venue of the Byrne Action to the
25 Bankruptcy Court where the Debtors' chapter 11 bankruptcy cases are pending.

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that removal of the Byrne Action and all claims and causes of action therein was effected upon the filing of a copy of this Notice of Removal with the Clerk of the State Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9027(c). The Byrne Action is hereby removed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California and the parties to the Byrne Action shall proceed no further in the State Court unless otherwise ordered.

Dated: March 4, 2015

NORTH AMERICAN HEALTH CARE

By: /s/ Krikor J. Meshefelian
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